

Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

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AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL OPORTO

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AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, PO

SUBJ: PRESS COVERAGE OF AZORES

SUMMARY: LISBON INDEPENDENT WEEKLY NEWSPAPER "TEMPO" ON OCT 30 CARRIED "INSIDERS REPORT" ON CURRENT SITUATION IN AZORES. REPORT CONCEDED THAT MAJORITY SENTIMENT RESTED WITH AZOREAN LIBERATION FRONT (FLA) AND ALLEGED THAT US AMBASSADOR RECENTLY SENT AZOREAN LEADERS RESIDENT IN LISBON ON MISSION TO ISLANDS TO COOL SEPARATIST SENTIMENT THERE. REPORTS LINKING "HIGH MILITARY AUTHORITIES" ON ISLANDS WITH ALLEGED "SPINOLISTA" TENDENCY" WITHIN FLA WILL HELP FUEL LEFTIST-INSPIRED SENTIMENT HERE THAT AZOREAN MILITARY COMMANDERS HAVE SOLD OUT. END SUMMARY

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1. OCT 30 ISSUE OF INDEPENDENT WEEKLY NEWSPAPER "TEMPO" CARRIED

"INSIDERS REPORT" ON "THE SITUATION IN THE AZORES." HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDED:

--AZORES ARE INCREASINGLY DISTANT FROM PORTUGAL IN SPITE OF EFFORTS OF SOCIALIST PARTY, WHOSE WORK HAS BEEN STRONGLY ATTACKED IN THE ISLANDS.

--TWO CURRENTS EXISTS WITHIN AZOREAN LIBERATION FRONT (FLA), ONE WHICH HAS LITTLE SUPPORT IS LINEAL DESCENDANT OF MPLA; OTHER, WITH STRONG SUPPORT ON ALL THE ISLANDS DESIRES LIBERATION OF AZORES FROM ALL FORMS OF EXPLORATION.

--THE "SPINOLIST TENDENCY" (PRESUMABLY FIRST CURRENT REFERRED TO ABOVE), WHICH INITIALLY SUPPORTED FULL INDEPENDENCE FOR AZORES IN ORDER TO USE ISLANDS AS JUMPING OFF POINT FOR INVASION OF PORTUGUESE MAINLAND, HAS MODIFIED ITS POSITION AND NOW SUPPORTS "SELF-DETERMINATION WITHOUT INDEPENDENCE." THIS TACTICAL MODIFICATION HAS WON THE SUPPORT OF PRACTICALLY THE ENTIRE MILITARY GARRISON ON THE ISLANDS, INCLUDING THE HIGHEST-LEVEL OFFICIALS.

--IF THERE WERE A SECRET BALLOT IN THE BARRACKS, THE PRO-FLA FORCES WOULD WIN.

--OF THE SIX CURRENT MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNING COMMISSION, FOUR ARE PRO-FLA; ONE IS NEUTRAL; AND THE OTHER IS ANTI-FLA.

--THE UNITED STATES HAS REMAINED ON THE MARGIN OF ALL DEVELOPMENTS. THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR RECENTLY SENT INFLUENTIAL AZOREANS RESIDENT IN LISBON ON MISSION TO ISLANDS IN EFFORT TO COOL SEPARATIST SENTIMENT THERE.

--THERE HAS BEEN A STRONG NEGATIVE REACTION TO THE "HARD-SELL" EFFORTS OF JOSE DE ALMEIDA--THE "PUBLIC RELATIONS MAN OF THE LARGE LAND OWNERS."

--THE EVOLUTION OF POLITICS IN THE AZORES WILL DEPEND UPON DEVELOPMENTS IN PORTUGAL IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS.

2. COMMENT: ENOUGH OF THE STORY HAS THE RING OF AUTHENTICITY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO IT TO STAMP IT AS CALCULATED. WHILE NOT DAMAGING THE UNITED STATES, ITS REFERENCE TO THE MILITARY AUTHORITIES WITH THE "SPINOLISTA TENDENCY" OF THE FLA WILL HELP FUEL LEFTIST-INSPIRED SENTIMENT HERE THAT AZOREAN MILITARY COMMANDERS HAVE SOLD OUT.
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